

### **REMARKS**

This Communication is in response to the Office Action of July 3, 2007, and to the conference between the Examiner and the undersigned on October 30, 2007. The Examiner made a final rejection of claims 1, 5-12, 15-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 2 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and claim 23 was objected to.

By this paper, claims 12-17 and 18 are amended, and claims 1, 5-11, and 19-24 are canceled. Claims 2-4 were previously canceled. Therefore, claims 12-17 and 18 are pending. No new matter has been added.

Since the amendments cancel claims and address formal matters, entry, consideration and allowance are requested.

#### **Allowability of Claim 23**

The Examiner's indication that claim 23 contains allowable subject matter is appreciated. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the recitations from claims 21 and 23, and claims 21 and 23 have been canceled. Claims 12-17 have been amended to depend from claim 18. Accordingly, all the claims should be condition for allowance.

#### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

Claims 1, 5-6, 18-21 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Nathan et al. (US Patent 5,384,255). Claims 1, 7-11, 12, 15-18, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Castillo et al. (US Patent 5,336,199). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nathan et al. (or Castillo et al.) in view of Vaillancourt (US Patent 5,591,138). Claims 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nathan et al. (or Castillo et al.) in view of Foster (US Patent 6,217,559).

By the above amendments, claims 1-11 and 19-24 have been canceled, claim 18 has been rewritten to incorporate the recitations of claims 21 and 23, and claims 12-17 have been amended

to depend from claim 18. Thus, the rejections of the claims over Nathan et al., Castillo et al. or Nathan et al. or Castillo et al. in view of Vaillancourt or Foster have been obviated.

Conclusion

Since only claims formally rewritten as suggested by the Examiner and claims dependent therefrom remain in the application, the application is now in condition for formal allowance.

This paper is being submitted on or before November 3, 2007, and an extension of time to respond until that date is hereby requested. The required fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1420. No additional fees should be due in connection with this filing, but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension fees or other relief, which may be required, or credit any overpayment and notify us of same, to Deposit Account No. 04-1420.

The application is now in condition for allowance, and entry, consideration and allowance are requested.

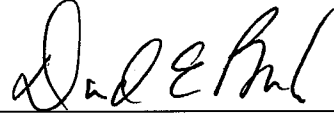
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

October 30, 2007

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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